Letter from the President

I hope everyone had the opportunity to spend the holidays with loved ones and make every moment count whether it was sitting down having a meal with them or just conversation over coffee. Every little moment counts.

I personally cannot believe that we are in January 2015, were did 2014 go? As this is the time for renewals we will see our chapter lose some and gain some. We have goals as a chapter and we will succeed at those goals.

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.” –Edith Lovejoy Pierce

As we start 2015 off with a meeting in the company of our Championship Spurs I hope everyone has a chance to reflect on the quote above and open the book of Opportunity and make the next 12 months the chapters to remember.

GO SPURS GO!!

Sincerely,

Christina Casiano
Bill Miller Bar-B-Q
2014-2015 San Antonio Chapter President

---

2014-2015 Officers & Directors

**President**
Christina Casiano
Bill Miller Bar-B-Q

**Vice President**
Denise Blackmer
Bank of America

**Secretary**
Melissa Pina
CPS Energy

**Treasurer**
Joy Box
Fernandez Honda

**Fundraising Director**
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**Membership Director**
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Enterprise Holdings, Inc.

**Sergeant-at-Arms**
Kelley Butler
The Frame Gallery

**Program Director**
Erin Sheehy-Campbell
Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade

**Director At Large**
Elvira Jacquez
The University of Texas at San Antonio

**Publications Director**
MJ Willis
Alisam Transportation Solutions
January Meeting Event

San Antonio Spurs vs. Portland Trailblazers

LOCATION:
One AT&T Center Parkway San Antonio, Texas 78219

Agenda:

5:30 p.m. - Arrive at the AT&T Center. If you have purchased a parking pass, please park in Lot 1 and walk to the SOUTHWEST Entrance (sign above doorway). This entrance is located next to the courtyard nearest the entrance to Freeman Coliseum.

(If you do not pre-purchase a parking pass you will park in Lot 6 and walk around the building to the SOUTHWEST Entrance)

5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Enter through the doors at the SOUTHWEST Entrance and take the elevator up to the Balcony Level (BL/200 Level). Meet in the HEB Fan Zone to check-in for Roll Call and to pick-up your Meal Vouchers. The HEB Fan Zone also includes a variety of games and a cash bar. You will also have the opportunity to watch the players warm-up!

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Spurs Representative Presentation in HEB Fan Zone

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Free time to enjoy food, drinks, and find your seats. You are welcome to remain in the HEB Fan Zone until Game Time.

7:30 p.m. - Game Time!

Post-Game: EWI Group Photo on the court! (Please meet at section 124 concourse, next to Rudy's BBQ following the game. We will go as a group onto the court to take a group photo)
EWI MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission
Executive Women International® brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of:
- Promoting Member Firms
- Enhancing Personal and Professional Development
- Encouraging Community Involvement

Vision
To be the leading connection for business professionals

February Meeting Notice
Thursday, February 19th 2015
Location: TBA

January Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Bill Miller Bar-B-Q
430 S. Santa Rosa., San Antonio, TX 78205

Notice From The Publications Director

BABY PHOTO CONTEST!
The winner will be announced or drawn at the membership event on:
Friday, January 16th!

Look at the last page to see the answers!
Representatives’ Birthdays & Firm Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following in celebration of their January Anniversaries.

Zachry Corporation 46 Years
Zachry Holdings, Inc. 46 Years
Valero Energy Corporation 35 Years
St. Mary's University 27 Years
H-E-B 21 Years
SWBC 11 Years
Texas Biomedical Research Institute 5 Years
Bill Miller Bar-B-Q 3 Years
Mood : Texas 3 Years

Best Wishes to the following in celebration of their February Birthdays.

Sonia Veliz Brooks City Base February 01
Cindy Vyvlecka Koontz-McCombs February 04
Amanda Avendano Enterprise Holdings, Inc. February 05
Donna Dimond Zachry Corporation February 06
Marissa Howard The DoubleTree Hotel February 07
Joyce Stuart Nix Healthcare System February 17
Joy Box Fernandez Honda February 18
Vicki Chapman SWBC February 27
Julie Lyssy G.H. Guenther & Son, Inc. February 28
Philanthropy Announcements
Submitted by Kelsey Hankins, Philanthropy Committee Chair

Jaxon's F.R.O.G. Foundation

More than 700 kids with cancer served in 2014!
Thank you for your donation to Jaxon's F.R.O.G. Foundation that enabled us to spread joy to hundreds of kids with cancer plus kids with blood disorders and kids on hospice care.

Here's a quick re-cap of how Jaxon's F.R.O.G. Foundation applied donations in 2014:
- **Cure for Kids** - donated to St. Jude, CureSearch, and in December we'll be donating thousands to the NOAH protocol (stay posted through facebook updates)
- **Courageous Kids** - distributed 400 "I Am Courageous" CDs by Justin Graves Band.
- **Escape to Fun** - treated families to a movie night in the park, Morgan's Wonderland, a Build A Bear giveaway with Elsa and Anna, and a fall festival!
- **Hope for Hospice Kids** - provided hope bags for kids on hospice in San Antonio
- **Spreading Smiles** - 1150 smile bags delivered throughout the year plus care packages, wall decals, and sponsored an entire Make-A-Wish trip
- **Welcome Gifts for Warriors** - 200 welcome bags delivered this year for kids arriving for treatment at MD Anderson in Houston

We appreciate you choosing to make a difference in the lives of these children! Donation receipts for your taxes can be found at www.thebiggivesa.org
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!
New Member Profile

MEMBER FIRM: Pratt Industries

REPRESENTATIVE: Stacey Crowder

Stacey Crowder is an Account Manager at Pratt Industries. She has been working at this firm for a little over 2 years. Prior to her employment at Pratt Stacey has spent 22 years in business to business and retail sales.

Stacey is currently engaged to her fiancée Ray and they are planning to be married in June of this year! In the meantime she is quite busy as Stacey loves to cook and travel with Ray. Additionally her time is spent with her 2 daughters, 1 granddaughter, 1 stepdaughter, 1 stepson and 3 step grandchildren.

Stacey is hoping to gain great friendships through her association with EWI. She is impressed with its focus on women along with their successes, support of one another and our community.

A true sales professional, Stacey sells empty boxes & packaging and you just might come across her enjoying a fine cigar from time to time!

Welcome Stacey to EWI!
Get a healthy start in 2015! Join the Y and save with no join fee in January. We have 10 facilities across San Antonio, group exercise classes, advanced fitness equipment, youth sports and more!

For more information visit JOINYMCA.ORG.
MEMBER FIRM HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT
Submitted by Monica Garza (The YMCA of Greater San Antonio)

1844 - George Williams founded first YMCA in London, England with purpose to create a refuge of Bible study and prayer for young men seeking escape from the hazards of life on the streets.

1876 - YMCA of Greater San Antonio founded by volunteers serving cowboys, railroad employees, young men and boys who'd moved from the suburbs into the city to find employment. Without owning our own building, volunteers began providing food, lodging, reading rooms and activities in borrowed facilities around town.

1907 - Volunteers raised money to build the first facility on North Alamo and Third Street as an outlet for young men to participate in Bible studies, physical activity and educational classes.

1918 - In World War I, the YMCA brought field services, food, first aid supplies and blankets to soldiers and their families throughout South Texas. By 1918, the YMCA was offering San Antonio’s first swim lessons, organized High School Clubs (Hi-Y), and reached out to African American and Mexican American youth in the community.

1927 - Camp Flaming Arrow in the Hill Country was purchased, again with funds raised by volunteers. This camp boys “healthful recreation without temptation, the gratification of the natural desire for a free and easy life outdoors, together with the cultivation of a manly Christian character” (Sumner Dudley, 1885).

1944 - Building of the full facility Davis-Scott Family YMCA.

1949 - Building of the full facility Westside Family YMCA.

1960s - The Northwest and Northeast branches were built to offer expanded programs in swimming, team sports, day camps, drug abuse prevention and teen leadership.

1971 - The Downtown YMCA opened its first location at 903 N. St. Mary’s. Through the 1970s and 80s, YMCA programs were developed to help at-risk youth stay out of trouble and learn new skills.

1980s - Women could now participate in health and wellness programs at the Downtown branch. The Southwestern Bell branch was opened where early child development, after-school child care and bilingual pre-kindergarten were introduced, leading to the development of campus-based student enrichment programs and youth sports. Texas’ first teen parent child care was developed at the YMCA.
2003 - With the leadership of the new President/CEO Baron Herdelin-Doherty, the Vision 2010 plan was set in motion. This plan, developed by the Association Board, task forces, local board members and staff, was designed to focus on Membership Development, Program Enhancement, Financial Development, Image Development and Capital Development.

2006 - The Boerne Family YMCA was the first facility to be built in San Antonio in over 30 years. The doors opened in January 2006. Later that year, the New Braunfels Family YMCA was opened, by remodeling the McKenna Health Club. Also, the roads, pool, cabins, showers and the camp directors' house were renovated at Camp Flaming Arrow.

2007 - The Mays Family YMCA, originally a sports location, opened its new Wellness Center, in January of 2007.

2008 - The new Braundera Family YMCA was opened in O.P. Schnabel Park. Seven months later, the family outdoor aquatics park, spray park and pool were opened there as well. The Davis-Scott Family YMCA underwent a full renovation and reopened in June 2008.

2009 - The D.R. Semmes Family YMCA was relocated to its new facility, in a first-ever partnership with Trinity Baptist Church in June 2009. In August, the Westside Family YMCA completed its renovation of the Childwatch, Kidz Club, Wellness Center, multi-purpose room, locker rooms and restrooms.

2010 - The YMCA assumed responsibility of two full-day Preschools (Labor Street and Stablewood) from Positive Beginnings, Inc. The new Schertz Family YMCA opened in March, in a facility built and supported by the city of Schertz. In June, construction began on the Walzem Family YMCA. In July, we provided full-day child care and afterschool programs at Haven for Hope - a private non-profit aimed at transforming the lives of homeless men, women and children in the San Antonio/Bexar County area.

2011 - What an exciting year 2011 was for our Y! We accomplished activities in line with our Vision 2015 strategic plan. Highlights include:

- The opening and success of our Walzem Family YMCA
- Transforming our Southcross location into a Y Living Center, to address the biggest threats to our health: obesity, diabetes and cancer, through medically based wellness programs
- On-boarding our tenth full facility in Thousand Oaks, just in time for the new year
- Camp Flaming Arrow enjoyed its best summer to date, with enrollment over 1000

2012 - In January, we unveiled a new brand to increase understanding of our impact in the communities we serve. The new brand strategy and framework helps us better communicate our mission, our cause and the positive impact of the Y in our communities. We also adopted a new logo that better reflects the vibrancy of the Y and the diversity of the communities it serves. The brand is much more than just a logo change. We want to be known as a powerful association of men, women and children joined together by a shared commitment to strengthening the foundations of our communities.
20 Tips for a Positive New Year

1. Stay Positive. You can listen to the cynics and doubters and believe that success is impossible or you can trust that with faith and an optimistic attitude all things are possible.

2. Take a morning walk of gratitude. I call it a "Thank You Walk." It will create a fertile mind ready for success.

3. Make your first meal the biggest and your last meal the smallest. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a college kid with a maxed out charge card.

4. Zoom Focus. Each day when you wake up in the morning ask: "What are the three most important things I need to do today that will help me create the success I desire?" Then tune out all the distractions and focus on these actions.

5. Talk to yourself instead of listen to yourself. Instead of listening to your complaints, fears and doubts, talk to yourself and feed your mind with the words and encouragement you need to keep moving forward.

6. Choose faith instead of fear. Faith turns adversities and dead-ends into detours to a better outcome than you thought possible.

7. Don't chase dollars or success. Decide to make a difference and build meaningful relationships and success will find you.

8. Get more sleep. You can't replace sleep with a double latte.

9. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in your purpose, people and the positive present moment.

10. Build your life and career with the 3 greatest success strategies of all. Love, Serve and Care.
11. Every day focus on your purpose. Remember why you do what you do. We don’t get burned out because of what we do. We get burned out because we forget why we do it.

12. Remember there’s no such thing as an overnight success. There’s no substitute for hard work.

13. Believe that everything happens for a reason and expect good things to come out of challenging experiences.

14. Implement the No Complaining Rule. If you are complaining, you're not leading.

15. Read more books than you did in 2014. I happen to know of a few good ones. : )

16. Don't seek happiness. Instead decide to live with passion and purpose and happiness will find you.

17. Focus on "Get to" vs "Have to." Each day focus on what you get to do, not what you have to do. Life is a gift not an obligation.

18. Each night before you go to bed complete the following statements:

   I am thankful for __________________________________________________

   Today I accomplished _____________________________________________

19. Smile and laugh more. They are natural anti-depressants.

20. Enjoy the ride. You only have one ride through life so make the most of it and enjoy it.

   www.JonGordon.com
I began reading in my teen years as my father, an avid reader, always encouraged me to do so. At one point, he gave me several books by American novelist Leon Uris. Uris was known for writing historical fiction and my father told me there were many lessons to learn in his books. After reading *Mila 18*, a story of the Jewish ghetto uprising set in German occupied Warsaw during WWII, I was captivated by the injustices and plight of the Jews during WWII. I read most of Uris’ books at that time, and since then have re-read several.

I recommend his books, but more so, highly recommend the story on the life of Corrie ten Boom called *The Hiding Place*. This book was a recommended read in my Bible study and the reason why this book is one of my favorites is that it shows the courage of this Christian family to help their Jewish friends and the difference that they made in their lives even when they didn’t have much to offer. Corrie suffered moral crisis over the lying, theft, forgery and bribery that was necessary to keep the Jews they were hiding alive. The family worked with the Dutch underground but ultimately Corrie and her sister were taken to a Dutch concentration camp as political prisoners. Corrie passed away in Placentia, CA at the age of 91. Her life has inspired me.
December Membership Meeting
Holiday Gathering
The DoubleTree Hotel

Maura Fernandez (Guest of Betty Gavora)
Helen Rios (Alisam Transportation)
Betty Gavora (Sustaining Member)

Carolyn Wallace (Spurs Sports & Entertainment)
Sue Ouimette Valero Energy)
Bobbye Scott (HOLT-CAT)

Joyce Carothers (Sustaining Member)
Diane Flack (Hixon Family Offices)
Lynn Smasal (Ernst & Young, LLP.)

MJ Willis, (Alisam Transportation)
Patty Classy (HVHC, Inc.)
Elvira Jacquez (UTSA)
Joy Box, (Fernandez Honda)
Jessica Sepulveda (The DoubleTree Hotel)
Kelsey Hawkins (Porter Loring Mortuaries)
Jimmie Joffe (McMarr Properties)
Erin Sheehy-Campbell (The Omni Hotel at the Colonnade)

Stacey Crowder (Pratt Industries)
Lulu Hui (Batchelor Cadillac)

Patricia Garcia (St. Mary’s University)
Frances Menjivar (HVHC, Inc.)

Ronette Pittman (Security Service Federal Credit Union)
Amanda Avendano (Enterprise Holdings, Inc.)
Kirby Braun (Raba Kistner)
Taio Book (Paychex)
Creating Warm & Snuggly Blankets for the Jaxon’s Frog Foundation

Everyone had such a fun time tying blankets and socializing! What a great way to help out such a noble cause!

The Mood: Texas band of merry blanket makers!

Lenzy Davis (Jaxon’s Frog Foundation)
Our featured pets for the month of January are best buddies Tamerin (the cat) and Pixie (the Pomeranian) who reside at the residence of new EWI member Melissa Pinilla with Marmon Mok and her husband.

Tamerin who is 15 was an engagement gift rescued from the shelter as a kitten. What a great present – no wonder she married him! Tamerin loves Halloween, cold weather and of course her BFF Pixie.

Pixie is 10 and was also a gift from her hubbie. Pixie loves fetching and swimming and will continue to do so until she can barely breathe.
# 2014-2015 Calendar Year at a Glance

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Board Meetings</th>
<th>Topics/Conferences/Special Events</th>
<th>Meeting Locations and Topics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 16</td>
<td>Tuesday October 21</td>
<td>Committee Planning Session</td>
<td>Tomatillo’s Restaurant, 3210 Broadway, 78209</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong>, November 12</td>
<td>THIRD Tuesday, November 18</td>
<td>Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade</td>
<td>9821 Colonnade Blvd. San Antonio, TX 78230</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SECOND Thursday</strong>, December 11</td>
<td>THIRD Tuesday, December 16</td>
<td>Holiday Gathering – The Doubletree San Antonio Airport Hotel</td>
<td>Speaker: Lori Giovannoni</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THIRD Friday</strong>, January 16</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 20</td>
<td>SPURS Night!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 19</td>
<td>Tuesday, February 24</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 19</td>
<td>Tuesday, March 24</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 16</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 21 (Alternate location TBD due to Fiesta)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 21</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 26</td>
<td>Executive/Scholarship Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 18</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 23</td>
<td>Non-Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 16</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 21</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 20</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 25</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 17</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Chapter Board Installation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Leona Pappas, (Life Member) 
Pamela Brandt (Sustaining Member) 
Teresa Flores (Documation) 
Valerie Manns (Project Control)